

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Francis Mabbett.....

**APPLICATION
REFERENCE**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
DEVELOPMENT**

APPLICATION SITE

26/01801/TCA

T4: Crack Willow - Pollard

Lime Tree House

48 High Street

Whitwell

Hitchin

Hertfordshire

SG4 8AG

Submitted Plan Nos

2.0 **Site History**

Various tree works applications at the site the most recent:

20/00112/TCA - Various tree works including removal – No objection

24/01274/TCA - 8x Lime - Re-pollard overhanging the footpath, removing epicormic growth. Lilac - Crown reduce and shape. – No objection

25/02729/TCA - G4 - 6x Ash - Fell Process and remove (Ash dieback). T4: Crack Willow - Crown Raise. T7: Crack Willow - Pollard. – No objection

3.0 **Representations**

None received.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site**

Crack Willow (applicant's plan) is located to the rear of the property close to the North boundary and River Mimram. The tree is not visible to the public realm. The site is within the Whitwell Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

T4: Crack Willow - Pollard

4.3 **Key Issues**

The key issue for consideration is the impact that the proposed works would have on the character, appearance and amenity of the Conservation Area.

4.3.1 The tree is not visible to the public realm.

4.3.2 The Willow has shed a large stem which made up approx. 50% of the crown. The remaining tree is now at risk of further failure as it is left exposed and with a large wound at the point of breakage. The characteristics of low density wood combined with the dry weather makes these trees prone to shedding limbs hence their common name and pollarding (topping in this case) is a suitable remedy to reduce the risk of further failure and retain the tree for habitat purposes. The tree has lost its amenity value and is unlikely to fully regain it therefore the effect of the works on the surrounding area is considered low.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 The proposed works would not result in any adverse impact upon the character, appearance and amenity of the Whitwell Conservation Area.

4.5 **Alternative Options**

4.5.1 None applicable

4.6 **Pre-Commencement Conditions**

4.6.1 None applicable

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 No objection.

Signed  Thomas Howe	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 5 August 2026	